

2021 10 03 Prayer for Peace, Hope and Justice

A prayer for the ... Burnt out ... Tired and weary ... Depleted ... Drowning ... Sinking ... Exhausted – mentally and physically ... Stressed out ... Pressured ... Clouded over ... Living in a fog ... Sucked dry.

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.” Isaiah 40:28-29

We hear the words of Isaiah. We do know that you do not grow tired or weary and we have heard that you give strength to the weary and increase the power of the weak Lord – for this reason we turn to you now in prayer. But today we pray for those who do not have the strength even to pray. They are too tired or simply weary of words. Experiencing their emptiness outweighs their meaning. Make yourself known in their silence, a silence forced rather than freely chosen. A silence from shutting down that can feel coldly isolating. Sit with them in their stillness, a stillness forced rather than freely chosen – forced by having no energy to move ... forced by exhaustion.

Again with Isaiah we have read that strength and movement, flying, running and walking flows out of hoping in you Lord: “...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31. Today we pray for those who do not hope in you Lord – not because they don’t believe, but because it’s beyond what their effort allows. May we know that your hope in us is not dependent on our hope or lack thereof in you. At least give us this hope, or this knowing, we pray.

We read from the pen of Paul: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7. But anxiety is seldom something we can switch off Lord – it defies our command and this in itself deepens our anxiety. Our anxiety is more like an untamed beast pacing up and down in a cage – its endless energy to pace up and down adds to our exhaustion, making us want to sleep all the time – or reversely keeping us awake eternally to spare us of the beastly dreams we fear will visit us. How are we to guard our hearts from that which seems to reside within them? By your spirit gift us with calm...a calm that trusts that you are not afraid of the wild beast within us. You are in the cage whispering to the pacing beast ... may we discover you to be the Anxiety Whisperer soon.

May we hear your whispering: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’. We know Paul went on to say: “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.” Many of us are not there Lord. We are not in the place to boast of our weaknesses – bring us quickly to that day we pray...yet until then may our weakness be our teacher. May our suffering heal us. May our clouded, distracted and fog like mind slow us down. May all our inadequacies humble us. May our difficulties to relate to others deepen our compassion for others who suffer the same. May our inability to do and to accomplish and to achieve, draw us into a place of accepting our being is worthy without doing, trusting that our being lives and moves in your grace – your sufficient grace.

Jesus you said: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." Gift us with rest today Jesus so that with the psalmist may we come to declare...

“In the day that I called, you answered me. You encouraged me with strength in my soul.” Psalm 138:3

Until then be our strength.

Amen.

CMM

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